

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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A. P. B.

All Probation Bulletin

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1



WINTER 2008



BY CYNTHIA HAVEN

In the fall of 2005 Contra Costa County participated in an exciting and challenging project to examine Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) within the juvenile justice system. This effort focused on three specific geographical areas, the City of Richmond, Monument Corridor, and Bay Point. With the technical assistance of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD), Contra Costa formed a DMC Task Force coordinated by the Contra Costa County Probation Department which consisted of City and County officials and staff, community organizations, and concerned citizens from across the county.

The mission of the countywide initiative is to develop a comprehensive strategy to raise awareness of disproportionate contact of minority youth in the juvenile justice system and promote the best practices and policies to eradicate the problem of overrepresentation.

National research has found that DMC is caused by and correlated with many factors including socioeconomic, educational, juvenile justice and family conditions that make certain communities vulnerable to disproportionate contact with the justice system. The research also suggests a number of strategies, including equitable treatment, effective delinquency prevention and early intervention programs. Providing cultural sensitivity and competency training for probation staff, law enforcement, judges, teachers, attorneys, service providers and concerned citizens is another key to the strategy.

To engage in this initiative an outside expert consultant formed a DMC Task Force of six groups to develop a plan to address DMC in Contra Costa County, specifically in Richmond, Monument Corri-

dor, and Bay Point. The task force examined resources and activity at the front end of the system confirmed there was DMC. They felt that the greatest impact could be had if youth of color were diverted from the justice system. Several months of data collection and community surveying regarding resources and community activities also revealed a lack of coordinated, culturally competent prevention and early intervention programs to deter youth of color from being in contact with the justice system.

In December of 2006 The Contra Costa County Probation Department submitted an application and was selected as one of five counties to receive the funding for the Enhanced DMC Technical Assistance Project. In the first year of this three-year project the Probation Department, with the help of the Expert Consultant involved in the initial phase of the project, have focused on training staff on the issues of DMC. In addition Department staff will be trained to educate others on DMC. The DMC trainers for the department are Petrenya Boykins, Forrest Coleman, Art Fernandez, Ellen Hole, Ted Martell, Russ Miller, Gail Schiffman, and Marlon Washington.

Chief Probation Officer Lionel D. Chatman and the Probation Department have made a commitment to not only continue to look at the issue of DMC, but to finding ways to address the issue through the work of the Department and its staff. We know that DMC cannot be changed in a month or in a year, and we will continue to work to develop best practices to address DMC. In collaboration with Mental Health, local and county agencies, community based organizations, and education, our Department hopes to address the need for services such as mental health, drug and alcohol treatment, and education in the community, not only when youth are entrenched in the juvenile justice system,

(Continued on page 12)

Juvenile Hall Library

BY KIKI WILLIAMS

Imagine this: an anxious young man, paces back and forth in his room on the Sequoia unit, signaling his intercom button again and again for no particular reason. It's his first detention in Juvenile Hall and he thinks, "the walls are caving in on me". An hour and a half until free-play and he has nothing to do but continue to call out the only staff's name he has memorized- mine.

I tell him I have something for him; I return with a tattered book from the library, proven to make the imagination soar. An hour later I can hardly get the young man's attention when I knock at his window. I'll never forget the anticipation in his voice as he yelled a quick, "Thank you," immediately darting his eyes back to the page, as if I was bothering him.

When the new Juvenile Hall was built a small room was designated for a library however, there were no plans for a program. Alison McKee and Susan Weaver, who coordinated a volunteer program at the Hall, wrote a grant requesting funding for the library. In October of 2005, the Leshner Foundation funded the grant for \$100,000. Since the grant money did not include staffing costs, the Contra Costa County Library graciously created a new librarian position for Juvenile Hall. In September of 2006 Alison McKee became the Hall's first librarian and a month later the Betty Frandsen Library opened its doors. November 1, 2007 marked the one-year anniversary of the library.

The residents of each living unit visit the library once a week. Residents check out books and learn how libraries are organized. They access the catalog system through the classroom and library computers and place books on hold. The library staff also arranged for several guest speakers this year; all share a love for books. The guests included authors Brandon Mull and Deborah Davis, County

Supervisor Gail Uilkema and poets Damita Brown and Kira Allen who conducted a month-long poetry workshop. Carrie Jackson, a Mt. McKinley High School staff member, shared her experiences as a member of the Comanche and Cherokee Tribes and presented her heritage through Native Americans literature.

Librarian Alison McKee stated the youth are always grateful for their time in the library and offer her suggestions to make their next visit even better. Several times a week a resident professes to her that they have just read a book for the first time. To her enjoyment, and credit, these young people turn into avid readers and are amazed by their newfound love for reading. Ms. McKee enjoys hearing experienced residents teaching new residents how to use the library catalog, and offering advice about how reading can help them in school, and "on the outs".

The Juvenile Hall residents may not be the first people you think of when you hear "book worm," but they are certainly living up to the name. With a wide variety of books to offer, the Juvenile Hall library is transforming residents into avid readers one book at a time. Meanwhile, we are all reminded to never judge a book by its cover.

Juvenile Hall Library Fact: More than 13,000 books have been checked out during more than 2,000 visits over the library's first year in operation. Ms. McKee offered as a comparison: the Bay Point Library, which serves a population of 6,907 cardholders, checked out 11,941 items in that same 12-month period. That means that 1,200 incarcerated teens at Juvenile Hall checked out more books in a nine month period than a population five times the size checked out in one year. Wow!

(Continued on page 5)



Librarian Alison McKee



Susan Weaver

Chatman's Chat... a message from the Chief

BY LIONEL CHATMAN

Greetings everyone! It is with great honor and admiration that our Department was again named the "First Place in the Large Department" category winner of the County's Food Bank drive. I want to thank all staff who participated in planning for the Food Drive and who gave generous contributions toward it. It was a proud moment to appear before the Board of Supervisors to accept the trophy for the Probation Department.



For the last two years here at 50 Douglas we have received new carpeting in most areas with the hope the final phase occurs next fiscal year. I want to thank Director of General Services, Michael Lango and his Department for the funding and installation of the new carpet. Hopefully, we can receive the same service for the West and East County branch offices.

Becky Williams, Business Systems Manager of the County Administrator's Office (CAO), has completed the Case Management System Process Business Report for our Department. This is the first step in the process towards a case management system. Also, the Public Safety partners, i.e. District Attorney, Public Defender and Probation Department Heads, met with the Department of Information Technology (Dolt) and representatives from the CAO's office to discuss an integrated system that all departments can share limited information. Each department is looking at their own case management system; however, it must be an integrated system due to the various functionalities and data sharing for each department.

Our Department has now moved to the next phase and has formed a Case Management Team. The Team consists of representatives from each classification with the Department. The Team will meet as needed and will visit other probation departments in the Bay Area to review their case management systems. Once a system has been selected, I will proceed to identify funding and move to have the Board of Supervisors approval to acquire and implement a case management program. The time frame for implementation depends upon the availability of funding as well as a determination of what system would satisfy our needs. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank those who volunteered to be on the Case Management Team.

I'd also like to thank County Librarian, Anne Cain and the Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation for their continuous support of the Probation Department's building and for supplying funds for our institutional libraries.

The Juvenile Hall now has a library and the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility will soon have a library because of the generous philanthropy of the Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation. I believe that reading and literacy is a vital ingredient towards rehabilitation.

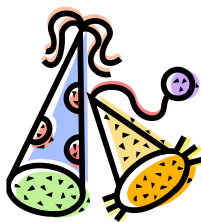
In the last issue of the All Probation Bulletin (APB) newsletter, I discussed Governor Schwarzenegger's reform efforts regarding non-707b offenders. Fortunately for Contra Costa, we have not had a lot of non-707b offenders return to our County for supervision. However, we are no longer able to send non-violent offenders to the Department of Juvenile Justice, but we are in the process of developing a Youthful Offender Treatment program (YOTP). We have not completed all the details of the program description, but it is in the developmental phase. A YOTP committee has been working on a program outline that should be completed by the next edition of the APB Newsletter.

In the meantime, staff in the Institutions as well as Field Operations have had the opportunity to experience training in areas of Cognitive Behavior Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) information, and JAIS/CAIS (Juvenile and Adult) Assessment Tool training. This training will be implemented in the new YOTP. I've heard positive feedback from all instructors that staff appreciate the various training courses.

There are many anticipated changes that will take place during the next fiscal year through the reform efforts by the County Board of Supervisors, Governor Schwarzenegger and the Legislature that will impact our Department on how we currently conduct business. I appreciate everyone's commitment, dedication and professionalism during these challenging but exciting changes.

"Nothing will ever be attempted if all possible objections must first be overcome." Samuel Johnson, English Author, Critic & Lexicographer.

"I appreciate everyone's commitment, dedication and professionalism during these challenging but exciting changes."



New staff welcome and Badge Ceremony will be held on May 9th at 1:30pm at the Martinez Office

A Letter From the Editor

BY SUZI HIBBARD



So, the holiday season has passed and we have many pictures to share of the festivities at 50 Douglas and the San Pablo offices. Additionally, February was Black History month, which began with the 30th Annual Commemoration and Humanitarian of the Year Awards. The Probation Department was thrilled to watch the Reverend Dr. Charles D. Tinsley receive the 2008 Humanitarian award for all of his hard work and dedication to the youth and young adults of our county.

While the newspaper is a format for you to learn about what is happening within the Department, it is also a format to open discussion regarding the department as a whole. With this in mind, the articles regarding DMC and the new risk assessment tools, JAIS/CAIS, are very important with respect to the direction in which the department is headed.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the newspaper so far. We continue to encourage any Probation Department staff member to submit an article or picture to share with A.P.B. readers.

Your Humble Co-Editor,
Suzi Hibbard



Rev. Tinsley & Supporters

Update on OAYRF Manger

BY DAVE ELLIS

Through the kind and generous donations from our Probation Department Family, we have built a new shelter for our llamas and goats. The Department donated a total of \$1,703 towards the project. Our livestock now have a better environment and the boys and guests can better interact with the animals. The animal husbandry program teaches the young men at OAYRF how to care for chickens, ducks, fish, goats, llamas and a horse, all of who live at the facility.

Our animals require ongoing medical care, food and housing, which

are obtained solely through donations. Should you wish to continue to support our efforts to provide meaningful programming to our wards, while providing a good life for our animal friends, please contact Shannon Grosenheider at the Juvenile Hall Auxiliary 925-957-2718. A donation of any size is appreciated.



A shelter fit for a goat...or a llama

Regarding the Money - Forecast Confirmed



BY JIM MORPHY

The expectations expressed in our last issue have come to fruition.

Our budget for FY 07/08 is still adequate to see us through the year. The \$443,277 in Youthful Offender Block Grant funds that we expected from the Division of Juvenile Justice (formerly California Youth Authority) has arrived safely in the County Treasury. The Board of Supervisors added it to our budget and earmarked it for our Youthful Offender Treatment Program. The Board also saw fit to move our savings on reduced DJJ commitments, which were estimated by the state Department of Finance at \$242,166, over to the YOTP budget as well, thus provid-

ing a total of \$685,443 for operating the new program. In addition, the Board has authorized the Department to apply for \$350,000 in state construction funds to provide infrastructure for the program.

Our other new programs are ramping up to normal levels and are staying within budget. These include Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction programs for juveniles and adults, the DUI program for adults, and the DMC (Disproportionate Minority Contact) awareness training for staff.

Remember to tell the good people you know about the career opportunities in Probation, and by the way, if you need a clue to get started on the encryption, **F = J**.

Meet the Staff—Latanya Blakney

BY MALKIA CROWDER

Chris Adams Girls Center (CAGC) welcomes Latanya Blakney as their new Lead Counselor. Latanya was previously employed as a special education teacher but started at juvenile hall as a temporary counselor in February 2007. When she applied for the position she thought being a probation counselor would allow her to utilize her degree in Psychology. However, after working in the position for a brief time she discovered the position came with many other duties. Latanya then went to work at the Home Detention/JEM Program where her delightful personality was appreciated by staff and juveniles on the program.

Latanya is proud to now be a part of the CAGC staff. She refers to CAGC as "the one stop shop" as the girls residing there receive family reunification services, therapy, education, drug abuse counseling, religious services, exercise programs and individual living skills training, among other services. The program operates with one Probation Counselor and either a therapist or nurse per shift supervising 14-20 girls. The program is not "hands on" and Latanya is not equipped with pepper spray. She must rely on her verbal skills and counseling abilities to defuse any situations that may arise. Latanya feels that she can relate to the girls on a personal level being that she is a minority woman as the majority of the residents. She also feels the most rewarding part of working at CAGC is the relationship she has developed with the girls she works with.



Juvenile Hall Library-continued

The Juvenile Hall Librarian, Alison McKee, is a graduate of San Jose State University where she earned a degree in Library and Information Science. Before becoming the Hall's Librarian, she was a Library Assistant at the Kensington Library. She has also been a co-coordinator of the Internet Mentoring Program at Juvenile Hall called Technology for Teens in Transition. Ms. McKee is a vibrant, book-enthusiast who is a wonderful addition to Juvenile Hall. She is always cheerful and willing to accommodate the literary needs of an eager resident. Without Alison, and the rest of the amazing volunteer staff at the Juvenile Hall library, it would be just a room full of books.

Upcoming Event:**Chris Adams****Fashion Show****June 21.**

**Fabulous clothing
donations are
needed.**

Fundraising Abound!

**JUVENILE HALL AUXILIARY
BY SHANNON GROSENHEIDER**



Cookbooks of favorite recipes from our probation family are still available! Purchase your copy at the Auxiliary Office at Juvenile Hall.

The books are priced to sell at \$8 each or 2 for \$15. Your purchase is a tax-deductible donation and you will have a gift to give or keep for your own enjoyment. Please call Shannon Grosenheider with your order at (925) 957-2718.

As always the Hall Closet is in need of your support. Donations, volunteers and shoppers wanted! The store is located in the old Juvenile Hall Administration wing at 202 Glacier Drive in Martinez. Hours of operation are Monday and Tuesday 10-2 pm and the first Saturday of the month 8:30-12:30.

A huge thank you to Jerry Johnson, Probation Counselor III at OAYRF, for his continued assistance to the Juvenile Hall Auxiliary and the Hall Closet volunteers. Jerry is consistently available to help us out at a moments notice and is always very appreciative when we are able to help assist him with the OAYRF residents and the animal husbandry program.

The annual Chris Adams Girls' Center Fashion Show is scheduled for June 21. Each girl will model a casual, business and formal outfit. Fabulous clothing donations are needed!



Juvenile Hall Volunteer Recognition

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

**BY ROBBYN-NICOLE
LIVINGSTON**

February is Black History Month. Unfortunately, it is also the shortest month of the year. So in an effort to celebrate all of the amazing contributions of Black Americans, we started our celebration with the 30th Annual Commemoration and Humanitarian of the Year Awards on January 15, 2008. There was a fantastic panel of speakers including Alan Wang, ABC 7 News Anchor, H. Abram Wilson, mayor of San Ramon and John L. Burris, civil rights attorney. Also featured were the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and the 2008 Humanitarian Award recipients. The afternoon concluded with a delightful luncheon of soul food cuisine.

Each year the committee recognizes a student and an adult who have given outstanding service to

their communities and contributed to society at large. This year Jessa Mabellin was selected as the student Humanitarian of the Year. Jessa is a 12th grade student at De Anza High School in Richmond. She maintains a 4.0 GPA, and through her many service organizations she illustrates her commitment to the global community. She has traveled to Mali, Africa to help organize and build a school in the Diamou village. She cleans up local parks and beaches, volunteers at the Bay Area Rescue Mission and binds books for Buddhist Temples.

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The Most Magical Time of the Year

BY DOUG KOVACICH

I have been a Probation Counselor at Juvenile Hall for almost a year now, and enjoyed every bit of it. I try to arrange programming, and activities for the minors on the unit including trivia, bingo, movie, and game night. Tournaments are my favorite whether it be dominos, Play station or "three on three" basketball. Programming is often difficult as the minors come from different walks of life and have different interests. Coordinating an activity to please all can be tough.

I am an amateur magician and belong to a local Magic club, the Society of American Magicians #112. Our club sponsors an annual magic show, Share the Magic, every year. I have been involved in the show for the past few years and this year I thought about what "sharing the magic" really means.

Late last year I coordinated a "share the magic" event for the kids in the hall, Chris Adams Girls Center, and the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Center. Ric and Kara of Amazing Magic with Ric and Kara agreed to perform for the kids.

Our first show was held at the Chris Adams Girls Center. The girls were very enthusiastic about the show and everyone had a great time. Ric and Kara received the same welcome from the youth at Juvenile Hall and boys at Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Center where 100 youth were in attendance. Youth eagerly volunteered to be a part of the show. They were respectful and well behaved during the shows.

When asked about the show, the kids and staff said the following:

"The thing I liked about the magic show is that the people took time out of their schedule to come and see kids who have gotten into trouble. The other thing is, it's something that you don't really get to see on the out-

side"; Jaivon

"I personally enjoyed how there was a mystery to all of the tricks. All the girls enjoyed the show from the edges of their seats. I think we felt the holiday spirit of the joy it brought to our situations. We deeply appreciated the gift"; Cienna

"The magic show gave me something to smile about and took my mind off of the stressful situations that are going on"; Milo

"The magic show was fun for the residents, they enjoyed seeing things that they do not ordinarily see. They were very respectful and were quick to participate"; PC Musick

"The magic show was great. If I could, I would watch it again. It was amazing watching him escape form the straight jacket. It was a great show for all of us"; Brandon

"The residents seemed to enjoy the magic show. The magician used the kids as participants and they enjoyed it. It was a good act"; PC Ben

It was a positive experience for all. The Magicians, Ric and Kara Ewing, told me that they originally had some reservations about doing the shows, however, they truly enjoyed the experience and hope to perform for us again. Ric is preparing an article for the SAM #112 newsletter in hopes of inspiring others to "share the magic".

A special thanks to all who helped make the magic show happen: Cindy Nieman and Petrenya Boykins for helping with the background clearances, Shannon Grosenheider and the Auxiliary for the Root Beer Floats, and most of all the Amazing Magic with Ric and Kara. It was the most magical time of year indeed.



Probation Counselors getting in on the act

JAIS & CAIS Assessment Tools

BY RUSS MILLER AND ERIK MELDRUM

During the first half of the new year the Department will be training staff on and implementing a new assessment tool to assist in the supervision of juveniles and adults. The juvenile tool, Juvenile Assessment and Intervention System (JAIS), and the adult tool, Correctional Assessment and Intervention System (CAIS), will someday replace the current Risk/Needs assessments while providing a simple way to organize and prioritize a caseload. It is the Department's goal to have adult and juvenile deputies trained on how to use this new tool by the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2008).

CAIS and JAIS were designed to assist deputies managing case loads to more effectively and efficiently supervise adult and juvenile offenders in institutional settings, on probation and in the community. The goal is to aid in institutional adjustment, to reduce recidivism, to help youth succeed in school and adult offenders live more productive lives in the community.

CAIS and JAIS have three related goals:

1. To help quickly establish appropriate supervision strategies based on strengths and needs, anticipated behaviors and attitudes and the reasons for these behaviors and attitudes.
2. To provide effective strategies for dealing with problem behaviors before they escalate into law violations.
3. To reduce recidivism in the community and reduce rules violations in institutional settings.

Seven supervisors have undergone rigorous training so they can teach the assessment tool to department staff. Donna Fox, Kim Martell, Ellen Hole, and Erik Meldrum have volunteered to teach the juvenile staff, while Laurie Barnes, Lesha Roth and Russ Miller are responsible for the adult training. Trainings will be held approximately once a month over the next six months. Since this assessment tool is quite different than our current Risk/Needs assessments, the training is somewhat involved and comprehensive, and takes about four days to complete (2 ½ days of classroom work, and 1 ½ days of independent work). This should prove to be an exciting time for our department as this new tool is designed to take a closer look at the motivations behind crime, rather than focusing primarily on the crimes themselves. The theory is fairly simple: If we can better understand why our probationers commit offenses, we will work with them more effectively and better our chances of reducing recidivism.

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work—cont.



Commemoration and Humanitarian Committee

Reverend Dr. Charles Tinsley, a Presbyterian minister was selected as the Adult Humanitarian of the Year. Reverend Tinsley has served as the Chaplain for the Juvenile Detention System of Contra Costa County since 1994. He works tirelessly for youth who are incarcerated and those in the community. He is on-call 24/7 and continues to inspire and teach young and old alike. He has successfully enrolled many youth into colleges and vocational programs.

The celebration of Black History continues with a month long presentation highlighting inventors, sports figures, artists, political activists and more! Every Friday there will be a new display hosted at Probation Headquarters in Martinez. The celebration will conclude with a luncheon on February 28 at San Pablo Probation Office.

Trivia Showdown

The Pursuit of Trivia Proves Significant Fun!

BY RICH BERKERY

The Juvenile Hall "Scrambled Eggheads" comprised of Tom Keene, Keith Lytle, Wayne Forster, Robin, Mary & Rich Berkery, proved to have the most trivial memory on March 2nd in the annual fund-raising game benefiting the Juvenile Hall Auxiliary.

The "Eggheads" bested 26 other teams including their championship challenger Probation's "Vas Deferens", Donna Price, Pete Neef, Lynn Gotchall, Tom Schulze, Amy Presley in the 23rd Contra Costa County Employees' Trivia Tournament held this year at Wedgewood Wedding and Banquet Center at the Delta View Golf Course in Pittsburg.

The other Probation teams that competed were:

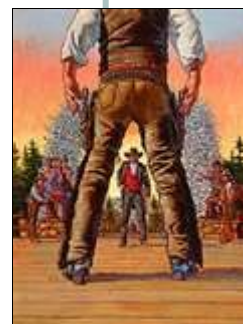
"Thirsty For Knowledge" Annie Merschat, Dave Henley, Mike Schroer, Shirley Osborne, Gabe Villa, Richard Rasmussen

"Random Awareness" Pam Collinshill, Lorraine Augusta, Sharon Gatto, Betty Larsen, Gloria Barton, Kathleen Salazar

"More On Trivia Team" Ervin "Rock" Roquemore, Michelle Bull, Marianne & Kyle Clark, Tony & Drosalyn Suggs

"Team Trivia: Read, Right and Knew" Michael & Shannon Grosenheider, Alison McKee, Russell Roe, Jennifer Jackson, Mike Gaddini.

Proceeds of \$2,450.00 for the one-day event were donated to the Juvenile Hall Auxiliary. Thank you to all who participated in this event.



Food Bank Drive Finale

BY CHRISTINE FREDERICK

Amazing! Fantastic! Overwhelming! Contra Costa County raised \$93,196.39 during the 2007 Food Bank Food Drive! On February 12, 2008, the Probation Department received an award at the Board of Supervisors meeting for raising the most money for the Food Bank by a large department. This past year our department raised \$3708.43 for the Food Bank and exceeded the previous year contributions by almost \$400.00. This was only possible with so many team members working on the Food Drive. Every site participated in a Breakfast Burrito sale. We also sold nachos, taquitos, soup, baked goods, bagels, and Sees Candy. San Pablo held their regular White Elephant sale. We hung stockings for donations, and raffled off baskets of which many were generously donated by our staff. Juvenile Hall youngsters made fresh new posters encouraging all to give generously. Every office and institution participated. We worked together for a good cause and for the second year in a row, did I mention that this was the second year;

we took home the trophy for raising the most money by a large department. This coming year we plan to conduct the fundraisers throughout the entire year so they are not all held in November and December when finances are tight. From the Food Bank Food Drive Committee we would like to thank everyone who participated to make 2007 a successful Food Drive campaign.



Raffle prize winners!

Meet the Staff-Janice Siders

BY CARMEL JONES



Ms. Janice Siders has worked at the Contra Costa County Juvenile Hall for 38 years and 5 months...but who's counting? Ms. Siders started her career as a Probation Counselor and after five years was promoted to Institutional Supervisor I. During her career she has supervised Lassen, Monticello, Yosemite, and the Tamalpais living units. She is the concluding her journey with probation as supervisor of the Shasta girls unit and Tahoe; she plans to retire in March 2008.

Ms. Siders shared her thoughts on the new hall verses the old the one. She loves that the new hall is generally cleaner and the convenience of having a water fountains and toilet in each room. Despite the benefits of the new building, she misses the Sierra Holding Room that would temporarily house "those door bangers and/or unruly residents that just don't want to cooperate." She also preferred having three staff on each unit. Most of all, Ms. Siders misses the camaraderie and togetherness that the staff shared at the old Juvenile Hall.

Now, let's go down memory lane... Ms. Siders shared some great Juvenile Hall memories. She fondly recalls putting on a haunted house with a coffin, chain saws, brains, peeled grape eyeballs, spider webs, and recorded screams. It made the all the kids scream! Ms. Siders also told of a minor's near escape from the Tamalpais unit in a laundry cart. "Those were the days"!

What does life after Juvenile Hall hold for Ms. Siders? She plans to take a National Geographic tour of Egypt, and then one trip a year thereafter. In addition, she wants to be a substitute teacher, volunteer at the WWII USS Hornets Club and the Aviation Museum in Alameda. Ms. Siders will continue to breed and raise Arabian horses as she has done for the past 30 years. She will also antique shop with friends and hopes to become a grandmother soon.

Ms. Siders will be missed. She is a great supervisor who will be remembered for her extraordinary advice and hilarious stories about. Ms. Siders has many fond memories and is thankful to have "met some of the best people a person could ever know."

Black History Month

BY VERA ENNIS

Black History Month kicked off at 50 Douglas Drive in style! If you walked through the hallways during the month, your eyes were graced with different themed posters each week, celebrating the lives and achievements of those who paved the way for others. Perhaps you sat in on one of the documentaries in support of a weekly theme selected by the Events Planning Committee. Maybe you even walked into one of our conference rooms and saw the walls and tables adorned with artifacts, literature or photos. Whatever you did, we hope you didn't miss out on the last event planned for the month!!

On February 28, 2008, an elaborate feast was held at the San Pablo office. The theme of the event, "Looking back at history.... looking ahead to history in the making" was AWESOME!! Our first black County Probation Officer, Chief Lionel Chatman kicked off the event with a warm welcome. Our very own Petrenya Boykins welcomed the dynamic speaker for the event, Dr. LaKita



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Black History Month Committee:

Malkia Crowder, MC
Robbyn-Nicole Livingston
Pam Collinshill
Ellen Nelson
Petrenya Boykins
Vera Ennis
Cynthia Lewis
Shanette Richardson
Lolita Rowden
Equaan Dia Smith

Home Supervision: A History

BY SUZI HIBBARD AND DONNA PRICE

In 1976 the Home Supervision unit was mandated as part of legislation that 600 and 601 youths could no longer be housed at juvenile halls. With this, many residents were released to a parent or guardian with the additional supervision of the Home Supervision unit. The program was also used to supervise minors awaiting court and those on informal probation.

Home Supervision had a humble beginning; the unit was originally run from a trailer that sat beside the Sierra unit of the old hall. Three counselors, including Annie Anderson, transferred from Juvenile Hall to HS and were under the umbrella of Intake. A Probation Aide position was soon added to supervise youth in West County. The Home Supervision unit operated with four staff who attempted to have a face-to-face contact with every minor, every day. Due to budget cutbacks in the early 1980s, staff was minimized and Eddie Turner and Belinda Stewart supervised youth throughout the county.

In 1995 the Home Supervision unit was expanded to include Juvenile Electronic Monitoring (JEM). Institutional Supervisor Carl Ackerley helped organize the two programs and supervised a staff of three, Carlos Mendoza, Walt Thomas and Walt Richardson. Major change followed. Pepper spray, caged vehicles and bulletproof vests were made available to staff. Additionally, new forms and a record keeping system were created. Any violation of program rules of either program resulted in swift action; minors were required to appear in court the following day. Home Supervision staff made arrests with the assistance of the local police agency when necessary.

At approximately the time the JEM program was added, the county was struggling to manage the population of the Juvenile Hall. The two main living units, Diablo and Yosemite, held a staggering 50-80 young men. Three to four youth resided in each room. To minimize this strain, minors suitable for release, were released to the Home Detention or Juvenile Electronic Monitoring Programs. This significantly increased the numbers of minors on the HS program to 80.

In 1997 Institutional Supervisor Dave Ellis took over the unit. The Home Supervision office was moved from the outdated and cramped trailer into spacious offices and new goals were set. The contact rate was increased,

new staff was added, and a 4-10 schedule was implemented to minimize overtime. Additionally, the number of minors placed on the program had nearly doubled by this time. The program was divided into six geographical areas to help staff manage the workload more efficiently.

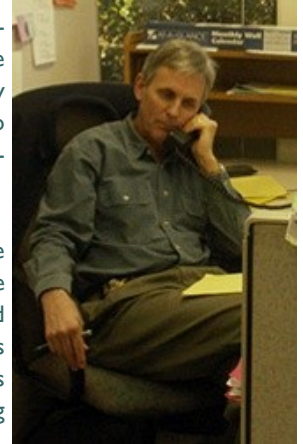
Violations were primarily upheld by the court as the program continued to gain respect as an alternative to detention. Judge Lois Haight ordered search and seizure and drug testing for every minor. Drug tests and searches were done with great regularity. This assisted staff in addressing gang, weapon and drug issues.

In 2001 Institutional Supervisor Fred Wessell took the reins and supervised the Home Supervision unit. Two years later Institutional Supervisor Karen Williams took over. She continues to oversee the unit.

A typical day for staff includes, several hundred phone calls, evaluating JEM information, JEM repairs, intakes, releases, arrests, school and home visits, court appearances or communication, written reports, updating the files and documentation of all communication. To assist with these many responsibilities, staff work with police, the Court, school staff, counselors, probation officers, social services and Juvenile Hall staff.

Currently, the HS unit consists of 13 permanent staff and temporary staff who to fill in as necessary. Last summer the two programs broke Department records, supervising an astonishing 260 minors. In late 2007, the new JEM equipment was purchased.

The Home Supervision unit and its staff have done a remarkable job of adjusting to the winds of change and the hardships of operating under financial restraints. The programs have adapted, and modernized to accommodate a swelling population of minors.



Charles Pfalzer
manning his
post



New Rules for the Road

With the start of the new year came updates to our state laws designed to help eliminate distractions and reinforce safety. Below are changes to driving regulations impacting our use of cell phones while driving.

Wireless Telephones It is illegal to use a wireless telephone while driving, unless that phone is designed and configured to allow hands-free listening and talking operation and is used in that manner, except for emergency purposes, as of July 1, 2008.



Wireless Telephones, Under 18 It is illegal for a minor to use a wireless telephone (even if it's hands-free) or other mobile service device (any device used to communicate electronically), while operating a vehicle, except for emergency purposes, as of July 1, 2008.

DMC—continued

but for those at risk.

The Probation Departments incorporation of DMC in its Strategic plan speaks to the departments continued commitment in pursuing avenues to provide services to youth that will deter them from involvement in the juvenile justice system. As part of its strategic plan to address DMC, Probation has pursued outside funding, such as The Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant and Enhanced DMC. In addition to outside funding for programming and services the Department is also actively involved with city diversion programs within Contra Costa County and continues to work with local/county agencies and community based organizations in its endeavor to address the DMC issue. The department will consider

the effects of and possible ways of minimizing DMC in each phase of its strategic plan. Chief Probation Officer Lionel D. Chatman feels that making a commitment to address DMC is tantamount to making a commitment to our youth, that we are looking for effective best practices to help facilitate positive change in their lives and in their communities.

The DMC Reduction Cycle



For Sale: Boyer Goats!!!

Seems that the Byron Boys Ranch has been taking such good care of the goats, that they now have more than they can handle. Contact Dave for information at DaveEllis@prob.cccounty.us

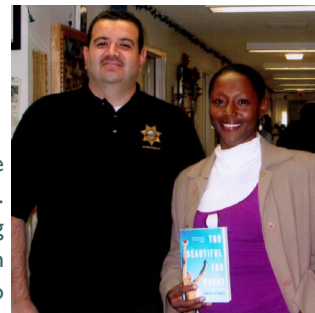


Author Pays a Visit to Chris Adams!

BY ART FERNANDEZ

Bay Area author and Senior Research Fellow at the Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice, UC Berkeley School of Law, Monique W. Morris, recently spoke at the Chris Adams Girls Center. Mrs. Morris read from her first novel, "Too Beautiful for Words", which is a "hard-edged portrait of life on the streets of Oakland." Sadly, the issues addressed in this novel are those many of our clients can relate to. Her visit was well received by the Chris Adams' residents,

many of whom had read her book. As one resident put it "She keeps it real." Mrs. Morris says she enjoys talking to young women and uses her book as a tool to reach out and show them that life is valuable no matter where you come from. The author has spoken at other detention facilities and has recently been invited to speak at the Juvenile Hall Library. Monique W. Morris is a Senior Research Fellow at the Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice, UC Berkeley School of Law.



ISI Fernandez and Monique Morris

VIP: National Mentoring Month

BY PETRENYA BOYKINS



January was National Mentoring Month. The Volunteer in Probation Hosted a Meet And Greet that was well attended. The Chief was on hand

to meet potential volunteers and congratulate those Volunteers who had patiently awaited the process of completing a background check, interview and fingerprint clearance. He expressed to them that their skills and experience uniquely qualified them as a value to Our Department.

Veteran Volunteers made introductions and shared both challenges and rewards they have experienced in the past few years. Don Monaco and Larry Crosley who have over 40 years of volunteering between them, spoke

about the importance of ONE on ONE Mentoring. Allison Mckee, spoke about the Library and Internet Program (Technology for Teens), while Shannon Grosenhieder reminded the audience about the Hall Closet and Board positions available with the Juvenile Hall Auxiliary. Big Thank You's go out to those individuals for the words of kindness.

No meet and greet would be complete without breaking bread. Desserts were served first with a note reading, "LIFE IS TOO SHORT, EAT DESSERT FIRST" and the message "DON'T BE CHICKEN come out and Volunteer!" was displayed near the chicken wings and salad for healthier eating.

Thanks for your patience and consideration in becoming a Volunteer / Mentor / Intern with Contra Costa Probation Department. We are currently in the process of making the application available on our Web site.

Celebrate
Volunteers April
27-May 3, 2008!

And Join us for
the Volunteer
Appreciation
Brunch April 29th
9am-11am

Black History Month—continued

Long. Dr. Long is an author, professional speaker, trainer, educator and Founder of Change your Life Seminars. The crowd remained at the edge of their seats as she delivered a powerful message aimed at celebrating all cultures and diversities! Her upbeat, positive attitude and comical antics were a joy to listen to. Her professional expertise and personal touch made for a wonderful celebration. The raffles, trivia questions and autographed

books by Dr. Long also added an extra element to the day.

It didn't matter your background, religion or ethnicity on this day, we all came together to fellowship and partake in what all cultures refer to as comfort food in one way or another. Food and fellowship is good for the soul.



Milestones and...

NEW FACES:

Jose Herrera, Alicia Jackson, Ron Neuhauser, Mimi Trentini, La'Sha Hill,
Eric Bennett, Sandra Webb, Chelsey Borges, Bettye Snowden

MOVING UP:

Michael Newton: Provisional Probation Manager of Pittsburg Office
Dave Henley: Probation Supervisor of the Intake Unit
Chris Frederick: Provisional Probation Supervisor of FIU
Carlos Mendoza: Institutional Supervisor I
Angela Washmera, Denita Elliott, Kiki Williams and Clinton Benton to DPO



Chiefs of past and present... and
Darlene Smith



Petrenya & Maxine Maas

MOVING ON:

Rey Orozco, DPO III
Janice Siders, IS I
Eric Brown, IS I
Bonnie Pannell DPO III
Goria Barton, Clerical Staff
Tim McDaniels, PS I
Robert Patrick IS I



Retirees at Christmas

YEARS OF SERVICE:

10 Years: Melissa Cabasa, Charles Gonsalves, Lori Militar, Wendy Roberts, Ava Patin,
James White, Maura McGettigan and Judith Nightingale
15 Years: Chris Stephenson
20 Years: Tama Payton, Roland Williams, Larry Lagano, Jim Morphy and Yvette McCollum
25 Years: Sandra Zwemmer
30 Years: Mark Lackey and Linda Merkt

IN MEMORY OF:

Mackie Pease, former Probation Supervisor died on December 27, 2007, at age 78.
Condolences to Jeanette Stanley, who lost her Mother, Ethel Johnson, on January 25, 2008

Internet Links and Resources

Contra Costa CORD-Online Resource Database:	www3.irissoft.com/cccc/
The California Penal Code online:	http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html
Contra Costa Schools Directory:	www.cocoschools.org/directory
Gang information:	http://www.knowgangs.com/
American Probation and Parole Association:	http://www.appa-net.org/
California Probation, Parole and Correctional Association:	www.cppca.org
Locating available resources for probationers	http://www3.irissoft.com/cccc

If you have resources worth sharing please submit them to newsletter staff for our next publication.

... Memories

By the time Santa Claus came ambling into the office, the party was well underway – the holiday feast was quickly being ingested, laughter (and even the occasional squeal) was echoing through the halls, and little ones were scampering about. But of course, when St. Nick enters a room full of kids, the rest of the adults instantly become mere furniture, obstacles in the way between the children and their bearded, jolly hero.



Big kudos to DPO Damien Figueroa, who gladly accepted the assignment of Kris Kringle (normally given to the least senior male staff member in the office), even though there might have been other staff who were newer to the department. Although some of the kids were a bit apprehensive at first (and at least one left Santa's lap in tears – What did you tell him, Mr. Santa?), all the kids seemed to have a great time!

Among the adults, the guest list included Chief Probation Officer Lionel Chatman, Commissioner Steve Easton, and about 50 staff members, including some from the Martinez and Pittsburg offices. The festivities included a magic show by DPO Dave Palmer (always a rousing success), gifts for the kidlets, and lots of wonderful food, much of which was homemade by our generous staff.



A puzzle

BY JIM MORPHY

**“FMIK QI KRZLZ DI BGVH BGZ IRZLDXX,
QGS BGVH BGZ SDIKLDAK QKKBLGZH,
QGS BGVH BGZ OMWVDA SZXZGSZL,
KRZLZ DI BGVH BGZ OLBWQKDBG BXXDAZL.”**

ABMGKH OLBJZLW

(solution in next issue)

Contra Costa County Probation Department

"To Serve and Support the Courts, Victims and Community"



The mission of the Contra Costa County Probation Department, as an integral part of the criminal justice system, is to reduce crime and provide for the public's safety by providing prevention, investigation supervision services and safe custodial care for juveniles. The Department is committed to restoring losses the victims of crime, holding offenders accountable and developing opportunities for offenders through innovative programs and supervision

Main Office
50 Douglas Drive, Ste 200
Martinez, CA 94553
925-313-4000

West County Office
2555 El Portal Drive
San Pablo, CA 94805
510-374-3041

East County Office
355 East Leland Road
Pittsburg, CA 94565
925-427-8361

Juvenile Hall
202 Glacier Dr
Martinez, CA 94553
925-957-2700

OARYF
4491 Bixler Rd.
Byron, CA 94514
925-427-8660

An archive of previous newsletters can be found at
www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/depart/probation

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Please submit all ideas, articles, pictures (As a JPEG file and attach to email), Discussions and Topics to:

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